Keeping in Touch

News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029, (213) 464-5100.

JANUARY & FEBRUARY, 1990

NOVEMBER 1989
TOP 20 TITHES

1.	MCC Dallas	Dallas, TX	$2,749.55
2.	MCC Long Beach	Long Beach, CA	1,868.80
3.	Church/Holy Spirit MCC	Ft Lauderdale, FL	1,808.53
4.	MCC Toronto	Ontario, CAN	1,642.76
5.	MCC Washington	Washington, DC	1,557.72
6.	MCC Los Angeles	Los Angeles, CA	1,554.60
7.	MCC of the Resurrection	Houston, TX	1,429.91
8.	All God's Children MCC	Minneapolis, MN	1,419.70
9.	MCC in the Valley	N Hollywood, CA	1,262.08
10.	MCC of Wichita Falls	Wichita Falls, TX	1,200.18
11.	MCC San Francisco	San Francisco, CA	1,163.70
12.	MCC San Diego	San Diego, CA	1,160.24
13.	King of Peace MCC	St Petersburg, FL	1,011.38
14.	First MCC of Kansas	Wichita, KS	831.44
15.	MCC of the Rockies	Denver, CO	761.76
16.	River City MCC	Sacramento, CA	710.86
17.	Joy MCC	Orlando, FL	668.16
18.	MCC Tampa	Tampa, FL	666.11
19.	MCC Christ Alive	Vancouver, BC, CAN	641.43
20.	New Life MCC of Tidewater	Norfolk, VA	616.88

NOVEMBER 1989
TOP 20 PER CAPITA

1.	Open Arms MCC	Rochester, NY	39.65
2.	MCC Ottawa ECM	Ontario, CAN	28.61
3.	MCC Los Angeles	Los Angeles, CA	28.58
4.	MCC Christ Alive	Vancouver, BC, CAN	27.21
5.	MCC Long Beach	Long Beach, CA	25.92
6.	River City Living MCC	San Antonio, TX	25.63
7.	Diablo Valley MCC	Concord, CA	24.97
8.	New Covenant MCC	Anaheim, CA	24.47
9.	Whitewater Valley MCC	Richmond, IN	24.36
10.	MCC of the Living Spring	Eureka Spgs, AR	24.15
11.	Light of Love MCC	Midland, TX	23.38
12.	Redeemer MCC of Flint	Flint, MI	22.86
13.	MCC Rockville	Rockville, MD	22.69
14.	MCC Ocean of Life	Costa Mesa, CA	22.24
15.	Calvary MCC	Redwood City, CA	20.53
16.	MCC in the Valley	N. Hollywood, CA	18.89
17.	MCC San Jose	San Jose, CA	17.75
18.	Johnson County MCC	Lenexa, KS	17.69
19.	Christos MCC	Toronto, ONT, CAN	17.67
20.	MCC Santa Barbara Cty	Santa Barbara, CA	17.04

PRAISES

Rev. Bill Hein, District Coordinator of Australia, spoke to his son in December, after 14 years. They had a great conversation and his son will be vactioning in Adelaide in May of 1990. God's blessings Bill, and we pray for a wonderful reconciliation.

Praise God, Rev. Ro Halford has returned to the Fellowship Offices after her surgery for a brain anurysm a few months ago. Welcome back, Ro.

Rejoice - Rev. Roy Lenington has been unanimously elected as Pastor of River City Living MCC in San Antonio, Texas. Rev. Lenington will be relocating from Waco to San Antonio in December. Congratulations Roy and RCL-MCC!

"Cousins of the Heart", the People of Color Ministry at MCC of Dallas, will be sponsoring their first People of Color Conference, February 17-18, building an awareness of People of Color, and multi-ethnic, multi-cultural ministry. Registration information will be available in early January from MCC Dallas.

We have a new Church in Australia - Northern Rivers MCC, located in Dorroughby, New South Wales. They had an attendance of 28 adults and 10 children at their first service.

Praise God, for a wonderful AIDS Conference and Clergy Conference in Houston, Texas, January 19-25. Many who attended said that the Spirit of love and healing was very visible.

PRAYERS

Rev. Willie Smith recently suffered a heart attack on December 5 and is now recuperating at home. If you would like to send him a card of love and support please send it to: 60 West Ramsey, Fox Cineplex, Banning, CA 92220.

Prayers are requested for Rev. Jane Carl of Costa Mesa, CA and her family as her mother passed away the first part of January. Your cards of support and love can be sent to Jane at: 111 E. Olive Avenue, LaHabra, CA 90631.

Prayers also for Rev. Elder Charlie Arehart of Denver, CO who's mother passed away recently. You can send cards to Charlie at: 980 Clarkson Street, Denver, CO 80218.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH DEFACING

Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry held a press conference in front of St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church in West Hollywood on Thursday, December 7th, to condemn the defacing of four Roman Catholic Churches in the Los Angeles area.

In a mailgram to Archbishop Roger Mahoney, Rev. Perry stated: "As a Christian and as Moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, I wish to tell you how profoundly saddened I am by the news that four Churches were defaced in your Diocese this week.

"As a leader in the Gay Rights Movement and the Communion head of a denomination that has had Churches arsoned, members terrorized during worship services, clergy and members murdered, and our own property defaced, I know the anguish that you, the priests and membership of those Churches, are going through.

"Please know that I pray for the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

"As a member of the Gay Community, I have the right to disagree with you on the proper way to stop the transmission of AIDS, but I and the membership of my denomination categorically condemn the action of those responsible for these acts of vandalism against your Churches."

Rev. Perry attended a two-day meeting in Atlanta, Georgia early in December with 120 religious leaders at the Carter Presidential Center, sponsored by former President Jimmy Carter and the Aids National Interfaith Network. With the representatives of Catholic, Protestant, Unitarian, Jewish and Bahai Faiths, Rev. Perry signed "The Atlanta Declaration" which vowed to: "work to eliminate prejudices that breed fear and persecution of people with AIDS; to disseminate accurate, balanced educational material about the disease and its prevention." And it called on President Bush to "demonstrate moral and political leadership" by:

1) admitting into the nation otherwise foreign nationals who would be barred because they may be infected with AIDS; 2) expanding drug treatment programs to include all who choose to enter them; 3) implementing risk-reduction programs for drug users that include providing bleach for the sterilization of hypodermic needles; 4) placing highest priority on AIDS education and care programs for black, Hispanic, Asian and American Indian communities; and 5) providing housing and health care for AIDS sufferers.

Leaders said they hope the statement will be a model for papers to be adopted by individual denominations.

NOW AVAILABLE!

PASTORAL SEARCH RESOURCE PACKET

The UFMCC Church Services Department is offering a new resource written by the Rev. Jeffrey Pulling for MCC pastoral search committees. The Pastoral Search Process: A Resource Packet For Lay Leaders is an extensive packet of resources that includes: an overview of the process; suggestions for getting started; detailed explanation of the five tasks of a pastoral search committee; sample questionaire for congregational members; four exercises for pastoral search committee to determine what their church needs in a pastoral leader; listing of other resources; and suggestions for a pastor's contract and job description. The price of this resource packet is $10.00 U.S.

FOR LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER

* Personal Devotions for Ash Wednesday (R. Shivers, 1988) [$2.50]

* A Christian Passover Haggadah is a complete order for a Seder meal (J. Feagan, 1985), available in both sm booklet and large print version. [$5]

* Holy Week Worship Services: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve or Sunrise Vigil follows Mark's account of the passion and resurrection (J. Pulling, 1983). [$2.50]

* A Dramatic Reading of the Passion Story: John 18-19 uses a fresh translation of the Greek into inclusive English (J. Pulling, 1988). [$2.50]

* The Torn Curtain: A Good Friday Service follows Luke's Passion Story and includes seeds for a sermon (J. Pulling, 1987). [$2.50]

* AIDS As A Reflection of the Crucifixion: A Good Friday Reading is a passion narrative (S. Mabey, 1988). [$2.50]

* The Testimony of Cornelius: A Different Easter Story is a Reader's Theatre for worship based on Matthew 27-28 and Acts 10 (J. Feagan, 1983). [$2.50]

ORDINATION SERVICE

New Resource: A model for Ordination Service into UFMCC Lifetime Ministry. [$2.00]

— Order from UFMCC Church Services Department, 5 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 9002 (213) 464-5100. Shipping will be added to the cost.

General Council - Detailed Agenda

Thursday, March 8, 1990
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

9:00 - 12:00 pm	Plenary Session 1. General Council Sharing (Executive Session) 2. Division Evaluation 3. Appointments To Divisions
12:00 - 1:30 pm	Lunch On Your Own (Division Chairpersons Meet For Lunch)
1:30 - 5:00 pm	Division Meetings 1. Program and Budget 2. Communication Policy and Review 3. International Concerns Research and Development 4. Corporate and Legal
5:00 - 6:30 pm	Dinner On Your Own
6:30 - 9:00 pm	District Coordinators Meeting

Friday, March 9, 1990
9:00 am - 6:00 pm

9:00 - 12:00 pm	Division Meetings 1. Program and Budget Division meets with Programmers 2. Communication Policy and Review Division meets with CCCC 3. International Concerns Research and Development Division 4. Corporate and Legal Division
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Luncheon For General Council, Programmers, CCCC, Staff
1:00 - 6:00 pm	Plenary Session - Reports From Programmers 1. Commission on the Laity 2. Faith Fellowship and Order 3. EXCEL 4. Ecumenical Witness and Ministry 5. Department of People of Color 6. Samaritan 7. World Church Extension 8. AIDS Ministry 9. Discussion of overall priorities
7:30 pm	Dinner hosted by Samaritan Board of Trustees for General Council and Programmers

Saturday, March 10, 1990
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

9:00 - 12:00 pm	Plenary Session - Long Range Planning: Strategic Plans General Council and Programmers
12:00 - 1:30 pm	Lunch On Your Own
1:30 - 5:00 pm	Plenary Session - Long Range Planning: Implementation and Evaluation General Council and Programmers

Sunday, March 11, 1990
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

9:00 - 10:00 am — Worship

10:00 - 12:00 pm — Plenary Session
1. Dialogue with Chairperson of CCCC
2. Report of the Director of Administration
3. Report of the Board of Elders

12:00 - 1:30 pm — Lunch On Your Own (Division Chairpersons Meet For Lunch)

1:30 - 5:00 pm — Division Meetings
1. Program and Budget
2. Communication Policy and Review
3. International Concerns Research and Development
4. Corporate and Legal

Monday, March 12, 1990
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

9:00 - 12:00 pm — Plenary Session
1. Report on General Conference 1991
2. Division Reports
   A. Program and Budget Division
   B. Communication Policy and Review Division

12:00 - 1:30 pm — Lunch On Your Own

1:30 - 5:00 pm — Plenary Session
1. Division Reports Continued
   A. Communication Policy and Review Division (continued)
   B. International Concerns Research and Development Division

Tuesday, March 13, 1990
9:00 am - 12:00 noon

9:00 - 12:00 pm — Plenary Session
1. Division Reports Continued
   A. Corporate and Legal Division
2. New Business
   A. Proposal for General Conference 1995 in Australia
   B. Meeting Dates for 1991

DIVISION AGENDAS

PROGRAM AND BUDGET DIVISION

1. Meeting with Programmers (Friday, March 9, 1990, 9:00 am - noon)

A. Orientation
B. Discussion of overall priorities for Fellowship programs
C. Review of 1990-91 budget
D. 1992-93 Program and Budget Planning Cycle
E. Discussion of program evaluation processes.

2. Items from the October, 1989 General Council

A. 1991 Budget (GC IX-A-1)
B. Financial Report from Commission on Laity (GC IX-A-5)
C. Discussion by Council and programmers regarding overall priorities for Fellowship and individual program (GC IX-A-6)
D. Reporting tithes by churches (GC-IX-A-7&8)
E. Recommendation Items 1-3 from October, 1989 Samaritan Report (GC IX-A-17&18)
F. Second Readings: IX-A-9, IX-D-11 (see Communications, Policy, and Review Division agenda)

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

1. Items referred to ICRD by the October, 1989 General Council Meeting:

A. GC IX-C-7: Moved that, whereas the resolution of General Conference XIV directing the Board of Elders to prepare a procedure on re-districting refers only to the procedure for redistricting, General Council affirms that policy A.304 remains in effect and directs the ICRD Division to do the research tasks outlined in, and associated with, A.304b (c thru e), and make recommendations on "c" thru "e" to the body charged with implementing the procedure called for in the GCXIV resolutions.
B. GC IX-D-8: Moved to refer to ICRD and C/L Divisions that all UFMCC entities provide for fully compensated Maternity and Paternity leave benefits for all employees. Leave shall not exceed 90 days
C. GC IX-D-10: General Conference XIV non-binding resolutions which were referred to the General Council and then, by the CPR Division, to ICRD: Resolutions #10, 18, 19, 23
D. GC IX-G-2: Move to refer the discussion of UFMCC Salaries (pastors, staff, etc.) to ICRD for review and policy development through CPR.
E. GC IX-B-2: Moved that the International Concerns, Research and Development Division in consultation with Program and Budget, undertake to research the referred UFMCC By-law amendment on the Commission on the Clergy, establishing the need, purpose, and a structure, and report to the General Council in October, 1990.

2. Continuing work of ICRD Division:

A. Develop a process for answering these questions as part of ICRD's research into the topic of "national" churches:
   1) What do we mean by "national" or "regional" churches?
   2) What are we thinking about creating national churches within the UFMCC?
   3) What are the overall advantages?
   4) What are the overall disadvantages?
   5) How do we address the lack of a world-wide consciousness of most local MCC churches?
   6) What numbers of churches and/or membership does a national group need to have before they can qualify for national church status?
   7) What immigration issues are involved (in general, and specifically related to gay/lesbian people)?
B. Plans for the final Long Range Planning Session of the General Council.

C. Review of non-binding resolutions #4, #7, #10, #14, #15,#17, #18, #21, #22, #23, #24, #25, #26, #27, and #28 referred by General Conference to the General Council as they relate to international issues.
D. Review of the proposed By-law change related to the 10% tithe for international impact.
E. Review of the UFMCC Policy Manual as relates to international issues.

CORPORATE AND LEGAL DIVISION

1. Items referred to C & L by the October, 1989 General Council Meeting:
A. Report on formal discussions concerning the possible merger of Northeast District and Mid-Atlantic District by the two districts (GC IX-C-8)
B. Preliminary Report from C/L reviewing the for non-binding resolutions (GC IX-G-1)
C. Second Reading: IX-C-6: (see Communications, Policy, and Review Division agenda)

COMMUNICATION POLICY AND REVIEW DIVISION

1. Meeting With CCCC (Friday, March 9, 1990, 9:00 am - noon)

2. Items referred to CPR by the October, 1989 General Council Meeting:
A. GC IX-D-13: moved to refer discussion on a Catastrophic Illness policy including issues of an Endowment Fund to the CPR Division for General Council, March, 1990

3. Consideration for Second Readings:
A. GC IX-A-9: (FIRST READING) moved that any church in arrears on tithes or assessments due the UFMCC, Board of Pensions (USA), or District shall be denied its lay delegate(s) vote at the District and/or General Conference. The determination of past due tithes or assessments shall be made on the basis of most recent financial records available from the UFMCC, District, and Board of Pensions (USA).
B. GC IX-C-6: (FIRST READING) moved that: A) Charter applications must be received by Corporate and Legal Division at least 60 days prior to the requested date of Chartering, and ; B) the District Committee and the District Coordinator are responsible for reviewing Local Church Bylaws/SOP's/Policies & Procedures, and assuring C&L (in writing) that the Local Church Bylaws/SOP's/Policies & Procedures are in compliance with UFMCC Bylaws.
C. GC IX-D-11: (FIRST READING) moved to recognize the desire expressed in the non-binding resolutions at GCXIV concerning the development of a Women's Commission.
D. GC IX-D-12: moved to add as First Readings to the Policy Manual:
D-503-b: In the event of a personnel crisis or possible threat against a person or property of a local church, the following guidelines are established:
1) Board of Directors/Local Church Administrative Body or Pastor of local church shall notify the District Coordinator/Church Extension Coordinator, and the DC/CEC shall notify the UFMCC offices and Liaison Elder.
2) the resident Elder(s) and Liaison Elders shall work in consultation with the Director of Administration and DC or Area Representative of WCE to determine the best possible plan towards assistance and resolution with particular attention given to the spiritual, emotional and physical needs and safety of all MCC persons involved.

4. Other Items:
A. Develop policy for handling action on items referred to the General Council by the General Conference and for reporting actions on such items to the Fellowship.

Topics of Proposed Non-Binding Resolutions Referred To The General Council By General Conference XIV*

#1: Reimbursement of local churches whose Senior Pastor serves on Board of Elders
#2: District and General Conference Planning Committees to consult with Women's Commission
#3: District/General Conferences to provide full support for children of Fellowship at conferences
#4: Inclusion of funds for Women's Commission beginning 1992 budget period
#5: Reaffirms tradition of grass-roots development and initiation of programs and theology
#6: Schedule 1 hour forum on women's issues at business meeting at General Conference XV
#7: Requests General Council reexamine financial/structural requirements for church status
#8: Accepting invitation to preach at General Conference would be declining nomination as Elder
#9: Professional audio consultant to install and operate sound system at General Conference
#10: Requests General Council to develop procedures to ensure congregations/commissions will not be denied representation at General Conference because of financial need.
#11: Seek future conference facilities which do not discriminate in any of accommodations for HIV positive people
#12: Beginning General Conference XV, worship provided from multi-racial, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, varied abilities, and theologically diverse perspectives
#13: Future General Conferences explore responsive and preventive approaches to violence
#14: Honor courage of Chinese students who were killed in Beijing
#15: Affirm Asian/Pacific presence in UFMCC and resolve to reach out to Asian/Pacific people
#16: Regarding business agenda format and form of reports submitted to General Conference
#17: Continued funding by Districts of Fellowship ministries and programs
#18: Schedule time during business meetings for each country to meet to discuss individual concerns
#19: Declaration of solidarity with Pro-Choice movement
#20: One Sunday per year to be dedicated to the unity and healing of family systems
#21: Creation of a Women's Commission and appointment of chairperson and support people
#22: At all levels, UFMCC to commit itself to provide full and equal accessibility to physically challenged
#23: Creation of an International Pensions Committee
#24: Appointment of a Senior's Issues Task Force
#25: Directs General Council to update and expand inclusivity policies of UFMCC
#26: Call Commission on Government Structures and Systems into existence
#27: Directs General Council to consider formation of Commission on Health and Wholeness
#28: Directs General Council to appoint Task Force on inclusive language

Topic of The Proposed Binding Resolution Referred To General Council By General Conference XIV*

The proposed binding resolution which was referred to the General Council concerns an AIDS/Catastrophic Illness Policy.

The referred proposed resolutions have been listed by number with abbreviated topic descriptions to facilitate the reading of the General Council Detailed Agenda

General Council - March, 1990
Agenda At A Glance

Thursday, March 8, 1990	Friday, March 9, 1990	Saturday, March 10, 1990
9:00 - 12:00 pm --- Plenary Session 1. Sharing (Executive Session) 2. Division Evaluation 3. Appointments to Divisions	9:00 - 12:00 pm --- Division Meetings 1. P&B meets with Programmers 2. CPR meets with CCCC 3. ICRD 4. C&L	9:00 - 12:00 pm ---Plenary Session Long Range Planning - Strategic Plans General Council & Programmers
12:00 - 1:30 pm Lunch On Your Own (Division Chairs Meet For Lunch)	**12:00 - 1:00 pm Luncheon** **(G.C., Programmers, CCCC, Staff)**	**12:00 - 1:30 pm Lunch On Your Own**
1:30 - 5:00 pm --- Division Meetings 1. Program and Budget 2. Communication Policy and Review 3. Intern. Concerns Research & Dev. 4. Corporate and Legal	1:00 - 6:00 pm --- Plenary Session Reports From Programmers: 1. COL 6. Samaritan 2. FFO 7. WCE 3. EXCEL 8. AIDS Ministry 4. EWM 9. Discussion of 5. POC overall priorities	1:30 - 5:00 pm --- Plenary Session Long Range Planning - Implementation & Evaluation General Council & Programmers
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Dinner On Own		
6:30 - 9:00 pm District Coordinators Meeting	7:30 pm Dinner by Samaritan Board of Trustees for GC and Programmers	

Sunday, March 11, 1990	Monday, March 12, 1990	Tuesday, March 13, 1990
9:00 - 10:00 am --- Worship 10:00 - 12:00 pm -- Plenary Session 1. Dialogue with Chair of CCCC 2. Report of Dir. of Administration 3. Report of Board of Elders	9:00 - 12:00 pm --- Plenary Session 1. Report on General Conference 1991 2. Division Reports A. Program and Budget B. Communication Policy & Review	9:00 - 12:00 pm --- Plenary Session 1. Division Reports Continued A. Corporate & Legal 2. New Business A. Proposal for Gen.Conf. In Australia B. Meeting Dates for 1991 **Meeting Ends At 12:00 Noon**
12:00 - 1:30 pm Lunch On Your Own (Division Chairs Meet For Lunch)	**12:00 - 1:30 pm Lunch On Your Own**	
1:30 - 5:00 pm --- Division Meetings	1:30 - 5:00 pm --- Plenary Session 1. Division Reports Continued A. Communication Policy & Review B. Intern. Concerns Research Dev.	

Laity Sharing

A Publication of the UFMCC Commission on the Laity
FIRST EDITION **FEB. 1990**
JoNee Shelton, Chair Robert Dedman, Asst Chair

Dear Friends,

The Commission on the laity is announcing that beginning with this issue we will be publishing a lay oriented quarterly newsletter.

In order for us to make this a successful endeavor, we need your help.

As we envision the newsletter, it will be divided into two major areas. The first will center on lay education and lay empowerment. In this column, we will present a synopsis of a lay oriented workshop, program or other lay oriented educational material for you to evaluate for use within your own congregation. These may consist of visitation programs, new members packets, Bible study series or any ministry outreach. Highlighting or spotlighting materials in this column means that we will present an overview of the workshop or other materials that you submit. All materials must be submitted in a completed form for consideration and must be made available for direct distribution for the cost of reproduction and mailing. Please include the estimated cost with each submission. If you, your church or your pastor have developed materials, this is your oppertunity to share with the Fellowship.

The focus of the second major area will be chat and news events around the fellowship. Let us know of any unusual happenings in your congregation or district.

This is where you come in. We need your help, your input and your suggestions for the newsletter to be a success. Remember that this is your newsletter and your commission.

Your educational/workshop materials should be submitted to our Resource Materials Editor: Jonelle Neighbor; 2945 Vickers Drive; Colorado Springs, CO 80918.

The news events and chat should be directed to our Information Editor: Jo Hughes 2518 NW 54th Blvd.; Gainsville, FL 32606.

On behalf of the Commission, I hope that you will find the newsletter interesting and helpful.

In Christ's Service,

Robert Dedman
Asst. Chair COL, Editor

MISSION POSSIBLE

The Commission on the Laity meeting in Ft. Worth, Texas on Jan. 12-14, 1990 adopted the following

Mission Statement:
In that, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches has affirmed the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:5-10); and recognizing that all members of the Church are called by God to a ministry of the Gospel of Christ in the Church and the world; the Commission on the Laity will act as an advocate of the lay people within the Universal Fellowship of the Metropolitan Community Churches.

The Commission will:

A. Develop, ensure and affirm a theology of mutual ministry between laity and clergy.
B. Develop and provide comprehensive educational programs and material to equip the people of God for ministry.
C. Coordinate and encourage communications between Districts and DCOL's of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolital Community Churches.
D. To act as a forum for lay concerns to the General Conference and General Council.

COMING EVENTS

HEART WINGS II

The South Central District Commission on the Laity will sponsor this second annual event to be hosted by Christ The King MCC of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Heartwings II is an opportunity for laity to discover the joy of being able to serve God in the local church and District. We, the laity, are known as the "heart" of the church. When given wings, we can soar to the heights of ministry and personal growth that God has provided. The laity can perform their special ministry while supporting their clergy. The laity and clergy working together can be a source of dynamic energy proclaiming the word of God.

Heartwings II is a chance for living, loving and learning. It is a conference by and for laity. Clergy are invited and encouraged to attend. The workshops and fellowship will be a shared experience.

The conference dates are Feb. 9-11 1990. For more information contact the South Central District Office or Christ The King MCC.

COL MEETING

The Commission on the Laity will be holding its next meeting Oct. 12-14 1990 in Las Vegas, Nevada. More information will follow. Remember that these are open meetings and all are invited to attend.

Being God's presents in the world

This was the theme selected by the Commission to guide us through the next two years. We are indeed the gifts of God.

JoNee Shelton
Chair UFMCC Commission on the Laity
917 Elysian Fields
New Orleans, La. 70117

Robert Dedman
Assistant Chair Commission on the Laity
404 Franconia Street
San Francisco, CA. 94110-5736

PARENTS OF GAYS & LESBIANS HONORED

"When gay children come out of the closet, they often pass their parents going in."

That is the way Paulette Goodman, an honoree at the annual Human Rights Campaign Fund dinner, often describes the need for the organization she heads.

Mrs. Goodman is president of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, or Parents FLAG, an international family support and education group. She accepted an award on behalf of Parents FLAG for the major contribution the organization has made to the cause of lesbian and gay civil rights.

Mrs. Goodman and her husband of 38 years have two children, one of whom is gay. "We love them both dearly, and we want the same rights for both of them. When parents learn the correct facts about homosexuality, they have no choice but to be accepting and supportive of their gay children.

Parents FLAG now has more than 200 chapters and contacts throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe and Australia. It can be contacted at P.O. Box 27605, Washington, D.C. 20038, or by telephone at (202) 638-4200.

OPEN & AFFIRMING CONFERENCES

The United Church Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns (UCCL/GC) is sponsoring three regional Open and Affirming Conferences this spring in order to increase awareness of the Open and Affirming movement within the United Church of Christ (UCC). "Open and Affirming," frequently abbreviated as ONA, refers to those local congregations that welcome gay, lesbian, and bisexual people into membership leadership, and employment. There are 36 Open and Affirming congregations presently in the 1.7 million member UCC.

According to Rev. Ann B. Day, National ONA Program Coordinator for UCCL/GC, "The success of the program thusfar gives us the encouragement to offer three regional ONA conferences in 1990 in hopeful expectation that more people will participate in the coming decade."

The locations, dates, and contact persons for the regional ONA conferences are:

WESTERN: Mercy Center, Burlingame, CA; April 29-May 2; contact Rev. Wendy Taylor, 751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont, CA 94002.

MIDWESTERN: St. Paul's Church, Chicago, IL; May 4-6; contact Rev. Talka Kreiensieck, 1630 W. Pierce, Chicago, IL 60622.

EASTERN: United Congregational Church, Worcester, MA; June 1-3; contact Rev. Ann B. Day, P.O. Box 403, Holden, MA 01520.

For more information, contact UCCL/GC's national office, 18 N. College, Athens, OH 45701, (614) 593-7301.

THE JOY OF GIVING

The congregation of Redeemer MCC, Flint, Michigan experienced the true meaning of Christmas, when their pastor, Rev. Lin Stoner invited them to share in the celebration of Christmas; by giving rather than receiving.

Rev. Stoner serves on the Board of Directors of Wellness Networks Inc. - Flint, and she had contacted Mr. Rob Bader; Program Director of Wellness. Wellness is a HIV/AIDS Support and Caregiver Organization. Rev. Stoner requested the ages and sex of all children living with HIV/AIDS within the care of Wellness.

There were 7 children with HIV/AIDS infections, 1 mother with HIV/AIDS infections (the mother has 1 child infected with HIV/AIDS, and 1 child who is not infected). In addition, Rev. Stoner had heard about a family of 4 (1 mother and 3 children, none of whom are infected) with no means of support.

In giving rather than receiving, the congregation shared a very special and warm experience, as they purchased presents for all the children, and the 2 mothers. The congregation also provided a full Christmas dinner for the family of 4. Each child received a minimum of 3 gifts.

The congregation of Redeemer gathered in fellowship to wrap the presents and prepare the food order that would soon be delivered. The congregation in giving received more than they gave as they experienced the true meaning of Christmas.

The church is now planning for next year, and plan to give a gift to every person involved with Wellness-Flint who is living with HIV/AIDS infections. Truly the church experienced love as Christ commanded: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

NAT'L LESBIAN CONFERENCE

A National Lesbian Conference moved one step closer to happening when more than one hundred and sixty lesbians gathered at Portland State University from July 21 to 23 for a second planning meeting. The three day session resulted in an interim task committee that is empowered to begin the work necessary to make this conference a reality for all lesbians in this country. It is anticipated that the task force will manage daily tasks and operations until the full steering committee begins to function in January, 1990.

The conference is scheduled for April 24-28, 1991 in Atlanta, Georgia. Conference planners expect more than five thousand lesbians to converge on that southeastern metropolis for workshops and plenary sessions as well as other related events which may occur concurrently, such as a business and trade exposition or a national lesbian softball tournament.

For further information please contact: Michelle Crone at (518) 463-1051.

GAY GAMES III 'FORBIDDEN?'

Unnamed "Christian leaders who live in Greater Vancouver" shocked organizers of Celebration '90: Gay Games III and Cultural Festival last month with full-page ads in the city's two major daily newspapers calling for the Games not to take place.

"We therefore with all reverence and serious intention, in Christ's name, make a public statement: That because these Games will bring God's judgement upon us all in this city, we therefore forbid them in the name and authority of Jesus Christ. We believe that they shall not take place," one section of the ads stated. The ads also called for "Spiritual Warfare."

Celebration '90 organizers were quick to respond to a barrage of media attention. "We are disappointed that a group of people would be willing to spend such an amount of money attempting to control the legal activities of another group of Canadians," Barry McDell, a director of the Celebration '90 Board, told The Vancouver Sun, one of the two papers to run the ads.

Negative reactions were garnered from a broad spectrum of people from the lesbian/gay community and from the non-gay community as well. Gordon Howe, president of the B.C. Conference of the United Church, was quoted as saying that his initial reactions were "not fit to print."

GAY GAMES III (Cont'd)

Letters to the editors of the two papers were overwhelmingly opposed to the ads, and provoked a virtual apology from The Vancouver Sun. "We regret that it went unflagged as advertising (its appearance was such that a reader might have perceived it as editorial material) and we unequivocally deplore its lack of signatures or attribution. In addition, we consider its message repugnant," the Sun response read in part.

"To a large extent these particular ads back-fired," said Shawn P. Kelly, Consulting Executive Director. "We've had a tremendous outpouring of offers of volunteers and financial support because of them."

Gay Games III and Cultural Festival will take place August 4-11, 1990 in the Greater Vancouver area. Inquires for participants, spectators, or donors should be addressed to: Celebration '90, 1170 Bute Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6E 1Z6. Phone: (604) 684-3303.

SAMARITAN COLLEGE HIRES NEW DEAN

Rev. Sandra Robinson has been hired as the new Dean of the School of Theology.

Sardi and Rev. LaPaula Turner have moved to Los Angeles from Dayton, OH. Please keep them in your prayers as they start a new life in Los Angeles.

Congratulations Sandi!

GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL

FRAMELINE is now accepting entries for the 14th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, June 15-24, 1990. Held each year during San Francisco's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Celebration, the Festival brings together the best in feature, documentary and short films and video works by and about lesbians and gay men. This, the world's largest and most respected annual screening of its kind, is sponsored by FRAMELINE, a nonprofit media arts organization, to develop and promote the production, exhibition and appreciation of lesbian and gay films and video tapes.

Awards will be presented to outstanding works in several categories. Formats accepted include 35mm, 16mm and super-8 films; NTSC 3/4" and 1/2" VHS video cassettes. The deadline for entries is March 31, 1990. For more information and entry forms contact FRAMELINE, P.O. Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114 or call (415) 861-5245.

DECEMBER 1989
TOP 20 TITHES

1.	MCC Toronto	Toronto, ONT, CAN	$4775.28
2.	MCC Dallas	Dallas, TX	3790.75
3.	Church/Holy Spirit MCC	Ft Lauderdale, FL	2622.81
4.	MCC of the Resurrection	Houston, TX	2474.79
5.	MCC San Diego	San Diego, CA	2373.13
6.	MCC in the Valley	N Hollywood, CA	2371.66
7.	MCC San Francisco	San Francisco, CA	1795.30
8.	MCC of the Rockies	Denver, CO	1776.66
9.	King of Peace MCC	St Petersburg, FL	1734.35
10.	MCC Washington	Washington, DC	1725.67
11.	MCC Long Beach	Long Beach, CA	1693.88
12.	First MCC of Kansas	Wichita, KS	1128.18
13.	River City MCC	Sacramento, CA	912.31
14.	MCC Tampa	Tampa, FL	835.61
15.	MCC Vancouver	Vancouver, BC, CAN	798.11
16.	Christ Chapel MCC	Santa Ana, CA	778.75
17.	MCC New York	New York, NY	763.17
18.	Church of the Trinity MCC	Sarasota, FL	703.88
19.	MCC Key West	Key West, FL	601.43
20.	All Saints MCC	Atlanta, GA	597.06

DECEMBER 1989
TOP 20 PER CAPITA

1.	Open Arms MCC	Rochester, NY	36.68
2.	MCC of the Living Spring	Eureka Sprgs, AR	31.96
3.	MCC of Northern Virginia	Oakton, VA	31.56
4.	Calvary MCC	Redwood City, CA	28.64
5.	MCC Vancouver	Vancouver, BC, CAN	27.81
6.	MCC Toronto	Toronto, ONT, CAN	26.40
7.	MCC Ottawa	Ottawa, ONT, CAN	24.98
8.	Whitewater Valley MCC	Richmond, IN	24.74
9.	Light of Love MCC	Midland, TX	24.39
10.	New Covenant MCC	Anaheim, CA	23.24
11.	Golden Gate MCC	San Francisco, CA	22.15
12.	MCC of Greenville	Greenville, SC	22.14
13.	MCC in the Valley	N Hollywood, CA	21.98
14.	MCC Rockville	Rockville, MD	21.62
15.	MCC Gentle Shepherd	Vancouver, WA	21.13
16.	Johnson County MCC	Lenexa, KS	20.16
17.	Mid-Cities MCC	Arlington, TX	20.07
18.	Christ Chapel MCC	Santa Ana, CA	19.55
19.	Redeemer MCC of Flint	Flint, MI	19.42
	Gentle Shepherd MCC	Scottsdale, AZ	19.38

SAMARITAN COLLEGE
PLEDGE RECEIVED

MCC Baltimore recently met its $500 pledge to Samaritan College with a team effort in fund-raising. Teams from the local congregation work at the concession stands during Baltimore Orioles baseball games to raise money for the church building fund. They decided to designate one game's proceeds to fullfill their church's pledge to Samaritan made at General Conference XIV. Happily, the Orioles had a good season and played one extra game, which enabled MCC Baltimore to raise an additional $549.82. The remaining $49.82 was designated to the UFMCC Benevolence Fund.

Thanks to MCC Baltimore, and to the following churches who pledged money to Samaritan College at General Conference XIV in St. Paul:

[$500]

MCC NOVA, Norfolk, VA
MCC Ventura, Ventura, CA
MCC Los Angeles, Culver City, CA
MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA
MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX
MCC in the Valley, N. Hollywood, CA
MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO
MCC Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX
MCC Silverlake, Silverlake, CA
Joy MCC, Orlando, FL
King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL
MCC Toronto, Ontario, CANADA
Vieux Carre MCC, New Orleans, LA
First MCC of Kansas, Wichita, KS
Divine Redeemer MCC, Glendale, CA
River City MCC, Sacramento, CA
MCC Dallas, Dallas, TX
MCC Detroit, Detroit, MI
Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, IL
MCC Baltimore, Baltimore, MD

[$250]

Emmanuel MCC, Spokane, WA
River of Life MCC, Richland, WA
Sunrise MCC of the Hi Desert, Palmdale, CA
Good Samaritan MCC, Whittier, CA
Song of Messiah MCC, Bellingham, WA
River City Living MCC, San Antonio, TX
Mid-Cities MCC, Arlington, TX

Rev. Troy Perry, Founder and Moderator of UFMCC, is calling on other UFMCC congregations to join in similar support of Samaritan College in 1990.

LUTHERANS INTRODUCE STUDY SERIES ON HOMOSEXUALITY

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has published an excellent new study guide on homosexuality for use in local churches. The guide, "Can We Talk About This" was prepared by Jeffrey Bessler at the request of the ECLA Task Force on Homosexuality.

The six-session study series is intended as an introduction to continuing discussion on homosexuality for Christian Churches that heretofore have avoided the subject.

The study guide costs $2.50 U.S. and accompanying audio tape cassette costs $5.00 U.S. Both may be ordered from the ELCA Distribution Center, 426 South Fifth Street, Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440, USA. Phone (in USA only) 800-328-4648.

The following questionaire is reprinted from the study guide with permission of the author:

HETEROSEXUAL QUESTIONNAIRE

The following questions are reversals of questions frequently asked of Lesbian and Gays. How do you feel as they are asked of you?

1. What do you think caused your heterosexuality?

2. When and how did you first decide you were a heterosexual? Was there something that happened to you?

3. Is it possible your heterosexuality stems from a neurotic fear of others of the same sex?

4. Is it possible your heterosexuality is just a phase you may grow out of?

5. Isn't it possible that all you need is a good Gay or Lesbian lover? Have you ever had a positive Lesbian or Gay sexual experience?

6. Heterosexuals have histories of failure in Gay/Lesbian relationships. Do you think you may have turned to heterosexuality out of fear of failing again?

7. If you've never slept with a person of the same sex, how do you know you wouldn't prefer that?

8. If heterosexuality is normal, why are a disproportionate number of mental patients heterosexual?

9. The great majority of child molesters (90% plus) are heterosexuals. Do you really consider it safe to expose your children to heterosexual teachers?

10. Why do you insist on being so obvious and making a public spectacle of your heterosexuality? Can't you just be what you are and keep it quiet?

11. How could the human race survive if everyone were heterosexual like you, considering the menace of over-population?

12. Why are heterosexuals so promiscuous?

THE HYMNAL PROJECT

The Hymnal Project announces the extension of its special introductory offer. Churches may still subscribe to the Project's first year and receive over 200 hymns for $100. The first seven sets are available now, including the newest two: Set F (Advent and Christmas) and Set G (Christmas, New Year, Epiphany). Each set contains at least 25 hymns in inclusive language and standardized format, which you may use to make copies for congregational use. Each set is also available individually for $15.

Flyers outlining the Hymnal Project are also available free of charge in quantity. These can be used to drum up interest in your congregation, or to encourage people to make a gift of music to the church. Let us know how many you need.

Over fifty churches in the Fellowship are now subscribing (that's nearly 25%!), and orders are starting to come in from churches outside our denomination. Plans for our second year will be announced within the next few months, keep watching!

Orders and inquiries should be addressed to The Hymnal Project, c/o MCC San Francisco, 150 Eureka Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

The Hymnal Project would like to thank everyone who made our first year such a great success. Plans for the second year are underway; pastors and church music directors will be receiving more detailed information by mail during February. Churches may order the eight upcoming sets of inclusive-language hymns (total of over 200) which will be released at regular intervals over the next twelve months for $100 (checks made payable to MCC/SF). Join the fifty-five churches in the Fellowship who have already subscribed. The first eight sets are still available, and may also be ordered for $100. Orders, questions, and comments may be directed to the Hymnal Project, 150 Eureka St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

PASTOR NEEDED

The Pulpit Committee at Golden Gate MCC, San Francisco, CA, is beginning it's search process for a Pastor. All interested Clergy should submit a resume to:

The Pulpit Committee
69 Prosper Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

Please keep Golden Gate MCC in your prayers as they work to find the one called to their Church.